

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on July 19, 2006 has been carefully read and considered. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claim 34 and noting the allowability of claims 8-11, 16-21, 23-28, 31, 32, 35, 44, 45, 48, and 49 if written to include all features of the base claim and any intervening claims and, in some cases, to overcome formal rejections. Claims 8 and 23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and the features of claims 8 and 23 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 22, respectively. Claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 50 and includes all of the limitations of original claims 1 and 20. Claim 51 has also been added and tracks the limitations of claim 21.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-22, 24-36, and 39-51 remain pending in the application. Editorial revisions have been made to claims 6, 10, 14, 18, 21, 24, 27-30, 33, and 36. Claim 39 has also been amended. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification and figures, e.g., at least on page 20, line 23 through page 21, line 15, and in at least FIGS. 12-20. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Claim Objections

Formal objection has been made to claims 6, 10, 14, 18, 20, 21, 27 and 39-49. Applicants respectfully assert correction has been made and the objections are overcome. In particular, Applicants have corrected the grammatical errors noted by the Examiner. The term inject molding has also been changed to "injection molding" per the Examiner's request. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection and allowance of claims 6, 10, 14, 18, 20, 21, 27, and 39-49.

Non-Substantive Rejections

Claims 29, 30, 33 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully assert the rejections are overcome.

The phrase "such as" has been deleted from claims 29, 30, and 33. The trademark "BAYHDROL®" has also been deleted from claim 33. Claim 36 has also been amended to correct an antecedent basis issue. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 29, 30, 33, and 36.

Substantive Rejections

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 12, 14, 39, 41-43 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jagger et al. (U.S. Publication 2004/0260379 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 8, which was previously held allowable over Jagger by the Examiner. Jagger, therefore, does not anticipate claim 1 for at least these reasons. Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 12, 14 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-3, 5-7, 12, and 14. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection as it relates to claim 1.

Claim 39 recites, in part, a system for reducing the cross-sectional surface area of a stent assembly. The system includes contracting members having edges defining a contracting chamber. The contracting chamber has a first cross-sectional shape along a portion of a length of the contracting chamber and a second cross-sectional shape along another portion of the length of the contracting chamber. The first cross-sectional shape has a stepped shape area along only a portion of the circumference of the contracting chamber.

The stepped shaped area of the first cross-section of the contracting chamber accommodates distortion of one or more cells of a stent assembly. Distorting the cells of the stent assembly enables a secondary guidewire housing to be threaded through an opening in the the distorted cells. For at least these reasons, the single stepped region of the contracting chamber is advantageous.

In sharp contrast to the invention of claim 39, Jagger does not disclose or suggest providing a stepped shape area along only a portion of the circumference of the contracting chamber. Rather, Jagger discloses a contracting chamber having either a consistent cross-sectional shape, *see e.g.* FIGs. 10 and 12, or a cross-sectional shape formed from *matched* pairs of crimping elements, *see e.g.*, paragraph [0046] of Jagger. Such a contracting chamber cannot be used to crimp a stent assembly configured to accommodate a secondary guidewire housing. See e.g., paragraph [0119] of the present application.

For at least these reasons, Jagger does not anticipate claim 39. Claims 40-49 depend from claim 39 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection and

allowance of claims 39-49 is respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Richter (U.S. Patent 5,906,759). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 8, which was previously held as allowable over Richter. Richter, therefore, does not anticipate claim 1 for at least these reasons. Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 12, 14 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-3, 5-7, 12, and 14. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claims 1, 2 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jackson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,082,990). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 8, which was previously held as allowable over Jackson. Jackson, therefore, does not anticipate claim 1 for at least these reasons. Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 12, 14 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-3, 5-7, 12, and 14.

Claim 22 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 23, which was held as allowable over Jackson in the previous office action. Jackson, therefore, does not anticipate claim 22 for at least these reasons. Claims 24-33 depend from claim 22 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 22 and 24-33.

Claims 13, 15, 40 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Jagger reference. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 13 and 15 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over Jagger for at least the same reason as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 13 and 15. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claims 40 and 47 depend from claim 39 and are allowable over Jagger for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 39. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 40 and 47. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claim 34.

The Office Action notes that claims 8-11, 16-21, 23-28, 31, 32, 35, 44, 45, 48 and 49 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 8 and 23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and the features of claims 8 and 23 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 22, respectively. Applicants, therefore, assert claims 1 and 23, and claims 9-11, 16-21, 24-28, 31, 32, 35 which depend therefrom, are allowable for at least these reasons.

The Office Action also notes that claims 29, 30, 33 and 36 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants assert the formal rejections of claims 29, 30, 33, and 36 have been overcome. Claims 29, 30, and 33 depend from claim 22 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 22. Claim 36 depends from claim 1 and is allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1.

New Claims

Claims 50 and 51 have been newly added. Claim 50 includes all of the limitations of original claim 1 and original claim 20. Claim 51 tracks the limitations of claim 21. Original claim 20 was held as allowable by the Examiner. Applicants assert new claim 50 and new claim 51, which depends from new claim 50, are allowable for at least these reasons. No new matter has been added. Allowance of claims 50 and 51 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

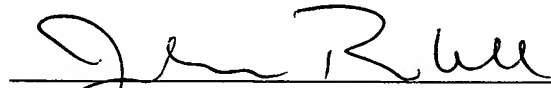
In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If a phone conference would be helpful in resolving any further issues related to this matter, please contact Applicants' attorney listed below at 612-371-5387.



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